

The Garden Connection

A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens

Reminder - Garden Closes on October 19th



The Waukesha County Rental Gardens will close for the season on **Monday, October 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** (This does not pertain to those renting permanent garden plots.) If you do not wish to continue gardening until October 19th, feel free to clean out your plot early.

Just a reminder regarding garden clean up... a \$25 fee will be assessed to gardeners if they have not 1) removed everything they brought into the plot including fencing, stakes, string, thick layers of newspaper, tomato cages, tools, plastic mulch, plant tags, etc. AND 2) dug up and removed all thick-stem vegetables (i.e., corn), thick-stem flowers (i.e., sunflower), and thick-stem weeds.

Did You Use Fabric Mulch or Plastic Mulch?

If you used fabric or plastic mulch, you **MUST remove** it from the garden and place it in the dumpster. These materials do not decompose and will damage the plow in the spring, which is why we do not recommend using plastic or fabric mulch. Straw or hay is preferred as these will break down over time and add organic matter to the soil.



Did You Use Cardboard in Your Garden?

If you used cardboard in your garden to help with weed control, remove it. Cardboard will not breakdown over winter. It **MUST be removed** and placed in the dumpster.

Garden Clean Up Tips for Plant Waste/Garbage, etc

- Please put trash in the dumpster and recyclables in recycle bin. **Do not put trash on plant waste piles.**
- Plant waste or weeds should NOT be placed in the dumpster. The only exception is if the plant material showed signs of disease. If this is the case, plant waste should be placed in a bag and tied shut before placing in the dumpster.
- For plant waste, use stablished plant waste piles located at several locations throughout the gardens. Do not start new piles.

A Big Welcome to Our Improved Garden Road

I knew it was in the plans for the garden road to be fixed this summer but I felt it didn't come fast enough. Thank you for your patience with the garden road this summer. Unfortunately, the timeline for the improvement was out of my hands.



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Bulletin Board Garden Entrance

Please watch the bulletin board at the entrance to the garden for new messages or updates. It is the easiest way for us to get a timely message to the gardeners! If there is something that you feel we need to include in it, please let us know!

Interested in Renting a Different Plot or Additional Plot in 2021?

If you are interested in having a second plot or moving to a different or larger plot, contact Lisa Boyer at lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov now to be placed on the “waiting list.” Should you change your mind next spring, you will not be required to move or take the additional plot.

Reminder — If You Barely Gardened in Your Garden This Year ...

Just a reminder of Waukesha County Rental Gardens Rule #16. If you fail to garden (i.e. barely planted, mostly all weeds) for TWO consecutive years, you will not be allowed to garden the following year per the discretion of the Rental Coordinator. A letter will be mailed to these gardeners this fall.

Consider Adding Organic Matter to Your Garden Plot

Feel free to add organic matter to your garden this fall. Leaves are a good example. They are easy to find and you do not need to till them into the soil. Just distribute them evenly over your garden plot. They will breakdown over winter and be tilled into the soil in the Spring. You can also purchase organic matter such as some compost or aged manure to use.

You must remove any fabric or plastic mulch, trash, plant stakes, etc and clean up your garden prior to applying leaves or other organic matter to your garden.



Not Returning Next Year?

If you know that you will not be gardening with us in 2021, please let Lisa know by calling 262-548-7775 or send her an e-mail at lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov.

Permanent Plots

If you have a permanent plot and have not gardened your plot to its “potential” and/or have not gardened much in it for the last few years, please consider giving it up. We have gardeners who are interested in a permanent plot and would be happy to work on preparing the garden this fall for next year's gardening season.



Questions/Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Email Lisa at lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov or call 262-548-7775. Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Your message will be relayed to Ann Wied. You can also e-mail Ann directly at ann.wied@wisc.edu.

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